



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

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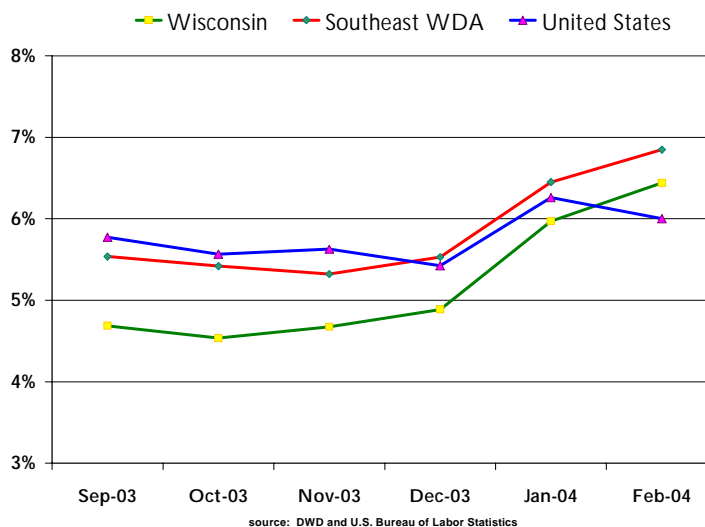
February Unemployment Rates Increase

The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.4 percent in February. This figure is five-tenths of a percent point higher than January's rate representing 500 fewer employed residents coupled with a 400-resident increase in the number of unemployed residents. Compared to

February 2003, the county looks a bit better with an unemployment rate that is nine-tenths of a percent point lower with 900 fewer unemployed residents. Racine MSA shows the biggest annual unemployment rate decrease of the three regional counties.

Racine's industry employment figures indicate both monthly and annual declines in total employment measured by "place of work". The monthly tally of 76,900 jobs is 400 jobs fewer, overall, than in January. Small employment gains were seen in financial activities, school districts and wholesale trade. These were offset by employment losses in retail trade; and leisure and hospitality employment at -300 and -100 jobs, respectively.

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Annually, Racine county's overall job count is about 1,000 jobs lower than it was in February 2003. Manufacturing employment shows 1,000 fewer jobs and retail trade employment is about 500 jobs lower than one year ago. Total Government employment is 300 jobs fewer than one year ago. Noteworthy employment gains were found in financial activities (+300 jobs) and in education and health services (+400 jobs).

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin counties: February 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03
Labor force	3,100,443	3,082,205	3,043,457	85,098	84,756	85,170	93,781	93,906	94,253
Employed	2,900,761	2,898,195	2,830,758	79,748	79,782	79,476	85,944	86,460	85,490
Unemployed	199,682	184,010	212,699	5,350	4,974	5,694	7,837	7,446	8,763
% Unemployed	6.4%	6.0%	7.0%	6.3%	5.9%	6.7%	8.4%	7.9%	9.3%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03	Feb-04	Jan-04	Feb-03
Labor force	56,145	55,688	55,238	235,024	234,350	234,661	146,154,000	146,068,000	145,693,000
Employed	53,236	52,994	51,948	218,928	219,236	216,914	137,384,000	136,924,000	136,433,000
Unemployed	2,909	2,694	3,290	16,096	15,114	17,747	8,770,000	9,144,000	9,260,000
% Unemployed	5.2%	4.8%	6.0%	6.8%	6.4%	7.6%	6.0%	6.3%	6.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - February 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
Employment in 1,000's	Diff. since Jan- Feb-04	Diff. since Feb-2003		Diff. since Jan- Feb-04	Diff. since Feb-2003		Diff. since Jan- Feb-04	Diff. since Feb-2003		Diff. since Jan- Feb-04	Diff. since Feb-2003		Diff. since Jan- Feb-04	Diff. since Feb-2003	
All Industries	2,750.0	15.9	31.6	53.4	0.1	-0.7	76.9	-0.4	-1.0	41.0	0.2	0.2	171.3	0.0	-1.5
Construction/Natural Resources	112.4	-3.2	4.3	2.0	-0.1	-0.1	3.2	-0.1	0.1	1.4	-0.1	0.0	6.6	-0.2	0.0
Manufacturing	499.6	1.6	-5.3	9.7	0.0	-0.9	18.9	-0.2	-1.0	9.0	0.1	0.0	37.6	-2.2	-1.9
Total Trade	426.7	-4.8	7.6	8.7	-0.1	0.3	11.9	-0.2	-0.4	5.6	-0.1	0.2	26.2	-0.2	0.1
Retail Trade	313.8	-0.4	5.8	6.7	-0.1	0.2	8.9	-0.3	-0.5	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	112.9	0.3	1.8	2.0	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.1	0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	104.5	-1.1	1.7	1.5	0.0	-0.2	1.9	-0.1	-0.1	1.1	0.0	-0.1	4.5	-0.4	-0.4
Financial Activities	161.5	1.7	6.6	1.8	0.0	0.2	2.9	0.1	0.3	1.2	0.0	0.1	5.9	0.6	0.6
Education and Health Services	375.4	3.9	13.8	8.3	0.2	0.4	10.5	0.0	0.4	3.7	0.0	0.1	22.5	1.2	0.9
Leisure and Hospitality	231.6	-3.3	7.6	5.7	-0.1	-0.5	6.1	-0.1	0.0	6.6	-0.1	-0.1	18.4	-0.6	-0.6
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	418.6	1.5	0.5	6.3	0.0	0.1	11.2	0.1	0.0	4.7	0.1	0.1	22.2	0.4	0.2
Information	49.0	-0.1	-1.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	242.6	1.5	6.2	3.1	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	127.0	0.1	-4.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	419.7	19.6	-5.2	9.4	0.2	0.0	10.3	0.1	-0.3	7.7	0.2	0.0	27.4	1.4	-0.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

Walworth County's unemployment rate increased by four-tenths of a percent point to 5.2 percent in February precipitated by an a 215 person increase in the number of unemployed. The number of employed increased by 240 residents, but it was not enough to offset an increase in the monthly rate. On an annual basis, Walworth's rate is lower by eight-tenths of a percent point showing almost 1,300 more employed residents.

Walworth's industry employment showed a slight overall gain of 200 jobs since January. Hiring by companies engaged in manufacturing, school districts and business services employment were responsible for the monthly net gain. Employment losses were reported in trade employment and in leisure and hospitality. The losses in these two industries were likely seasonal in nature. Like many counties in Wisconsin, February is a flat month for employment increase regardless of the overall economic conditions. Warmer months will

certainly bring this seasonal county's job count higher.

Walworth's industry picture from an annual perspective shows 200 more jobs, overall. The gains was centered in services-providing industries such as total trade, financial activities and educational and health services. Annual losses were seen in two sectors: leisure and hospitality; and transportation, warehousing and utilities, which combined for -200 jobs.

The unemployment rate of the **Kenosha MSA** increased by four-tenths of a percent point to 6.3 percent as a result of a slight decrease in the number of employed and a 376-resident increase in the number of unemployed. Compared to last February, Kenosha County shows over 270 more employed, 340 fewer unemployed and an unemployment rate that is four-tenths of a point lower.

Kenosha's overall industry employment

total is 100 jobs greater than in January, but 700 jobs smaller than in February 2003.

The monthly net gain was a bit lower than usual for Kenosha County in February, but it was an employment gain nonetheless. The annual employment loss was rooted in the 900-job decrease in manufacturing and 500-job loss in leisure and hospitality. Offsetting these larger annual losses were employment gains in education and health services (+400 jobs), financial activities (+200 jobs) and retail trade employment (+200 jobs). These sectors' gains are nothing new nor are they surprising.

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